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KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



# **ANNUAL REPORTS**

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

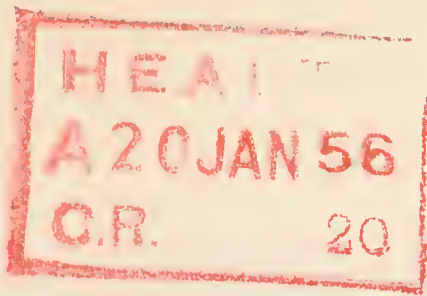
AND

Sanitary Inspector

FOR

1954





KIDDERMINSTER  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
FOR  
1954

# Kidderminster Rural District Council

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## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

### *Medical Officer of Health:*

R. W. MARKHAM, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

### *Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer:*

R. S. PORTER, Cert.S.I.J.B., C.R.San.I.

(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector)

*Assistant:* C. G. KNOTT

### *Assistant Housing Officer and Public Health Clerk:*

Miss J. E. MANTLE

*Rats and Mice Destruction Officer:* E. M. HOWELL

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the*

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my REPORT for the year 1954.

## SECTION A.

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36,790
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population								
mid 1954	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,140
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1954	...	...						3,623
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£70,684
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...				£280

### Social Conditions.

In the main the inhabitants of the district are engaged in agricultural and kindred work, though a certain proportion are employed in industry in Kidderminster, and a number of males are employed at an Iron Works in the district.

## Vital Statistics.

				1954	1953		
<b>Births.</b>				Males	Females	Total	Total
(a)	Live Births:	Legitimate	...	77	85	162	180
		Illegitimate	...	1	6	7	13
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population						13.9	15.9
Birth rate for England and Wales				...	...	15.2	15.5
				Males	Females	Total	Total
(b)	Still Births:	Legitimate	...	2	1	3	5
		Illegitimate	...	0	0	0	1
<b>Deaths.</b>				Males	Females	Total	Total
(a)	No. registered for District	...	...	67	49	116	87
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				...	...	9.5	7.18
Death rate for England and Wales				...	...	11.3	11.2
(b)	Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	18	12
	Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	0	0
	Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	0	0
(c)	Maternal Mortality	...	...	...	...	0	0
(d)	Infant Mortality (under 1 year of age)	...	...	...	...	7	6
Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age:							
All Infants per 1,000 live births				...	...	41.1	31.1
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				...	...	43.2	33.3
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live births				...	...	25.5	26.8



### Cause of Death.

							<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
2	Tuberculosis: non-respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
11	Malignant neoplasm, lungs, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	...	...	...	...	...	7	4
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	8	7
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	10	6
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
20	Other Heart diseases	...	...	...	...	...	11	6
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
22	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	5	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	4	8
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
35	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
							—	—
	All causes	...	...	...	...	...	67	49

## **SECTION B.**

### **General Provision of Health Services in the Area.**

#### **Staff.**

I have the assistance and co-operation of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. S. Porter, who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and of Miss J. E. Mantle as Public Health Clerk.

#### **Laboratory Facilities.**

The Worcestershire County Council Laboratories are available for the chemical examination of water, milk and foodstuffs, and the work is carried out by the County Analyst.

All clinical bacteriology is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, situated at Worcester Royal Infirmary.

#### **Ambulance Facilities.**

For Infectious Diseases an ambulance is provided by the Regional Hospital Board, and operates from Hayley Green Hospital.

For other cases an ambulance service is provided by the County Council, and operates from Kidderminster.

#### **Nursing at Home.**

There are four District Nurses in the area, who also practise as Midwives and act as Health Visitors. Two other District Nurses also deal with portions of the Area.

#### **Infant Welfare Centres.**

There are five Infant Welfare Centres in the Area—at Far Forest, Wolverley, Cookley, Chaddesley Corbett, and Blakedown, where Immunisation and Vaccination is carried out.

The Welfare Centre at Wribbenhall is also used by residents of the Area.

#### **Hospitals.**

The Kidderminster and District General Hospital is available for all residents in our Area.

For Infectious Diseases the Isolation Hospital at Hayley Green is available.



### **Tuberculosis.**

This work is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, who arrange sanatorium treatment where possible. Dispensaries are held every Tuesday at 6 p.m., and Thursday at 2 p.m. at the Kidderminster General Hospital, where Dr. R. Cronin attends.

The County Council are responsible for after-care and this work is administered locally by the After-Care Sub-Committee of the Divisional Area Committee.

### **Venereal Disease.**

The Regional Hospital Board arrange for treatment and follow-up of these cases at the Kidderminster General Hospital.

## **SECTION C.**

### **Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

#### **Water.**

The Council own approximately 80 miles of water pipes, and the water in the Rural District is supplied by:—

- (1) The Council's Borehole at Cookley.
- (2) The City of Birmingham Elan Aqueduct.
- (3) The Stourbridge Water Board.
- (4) The East Worcestershire Water Board.

The supply is satisfactory both in regard to quality and quantity.

The Sanitary Inspector submitted 29 samples of water from the four main sources for chemical and bacteriological examination. All the samples were satisfactory.

# WATER SUPPLIES TO HOUSES IN THE RURAL DISTRICT

Parish	From Public Mains				From Private Supplies e.g. wells, springs, etc.	
	Direct to houses		By means of Standpipe		No. of dwelling houses	Population
	No. of dwelling houses	Population	No. of dwelling houses	Population		
Wolverley ... ..	963	3370	223	713	53	169
Upper Arley ... ..	109	381	119	380	107	341
Ribbesford ... ..	6	19	—	—	18	57
Churchill and Blakedown ... ..	343	1115	—	—	28	89
Rock ... ..	430	1505	158	505	110	350
Broome ... ..	47	150	—	—	22	70
Stone ... ..	75	241	—	—	53	160
Rushock ... ..	12	42	—	—	40	126
Kidderminster Foreign ... ..	84	270	207	662	77	246
Chaddesley Corbett ... ..	390	1360	67	214	68	213
Totals ... ..	2459	8453	774	2474	576	1821

The above figures are approximate. Included in the 774 houses supplied from standpipes are several areas of bungalow development, a “squatters” camp, and camping sites.

### Drainage and Sewerage.

Work has proceeded rapidly with the connection of houses to the new sewers in Wolverley and Cookley. By the end of the year 549 properties had been dealt with. This brought about a vast improvement in the sanitary conditions of these two Villages, which for many years had been a cause for grave concern.

There is no doubt that the Scheme is the greatest step forward in Public Health that the Council have ever accomplished.

It is earnestly hoped that the Scheme for Chaddeley Corbett, which has been approved in principle, will be commenced with as little delay as possible.

In areas likely to remain unsewered further progress has been made in conversion to water carriage to efficient private disposal plants.

### SUMMARY OF SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Parish	Houses connected to a public sewer	Population served	No. of houses with		
			Pails	Cess pits, etc.	Private installations
Wolverley ...	819	2866	63	70	46
Upper Arley ...	29	100	102	152	44
Ribbesford ...	—	—	12	12	12
Churchill and Blakedown ...	221	699	36	63	72
Rock ...	32	102	198	425	230
Broome ...	—	—	10	15	54
Stone ...	12	38	60	73	42
Rushock ...	—	—	33	33	7
Kidderminster Foreign ...	16	51	230	96	52
Chaddeley Corbett ...	102	357	120	242	188
Totals ...	1231	4213	864	1181	747

All shacks, etc., have been included as dwellings. Few of them have drainage arrangements.

## River Pollution.

There is little change to report in the condition of the River Stour which runs through the District. The Severn River Board continue to investigate the sources of pollution entering the River and it is hoped that this will enable them to bring about a reduction of the contamination.

The completion of the Wolverley and Cookley Sewerage Scheme has removed the major source of local pollution and the Council are to be congratulated on the success of their efforts in this direction.

## HOUSING.

### STATISTICS.

#### 1.—Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	466
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	502
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 & 1932 ... ..	258
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	276
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ... ..	201

#### 2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without the Service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	76
--	----

#### 3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

##### A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	5
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:—	
(a)	By Owners ... ..	5
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil



**B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.**

- |     |   |     |
|-----|---|-----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. | nil |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:                 |     |
| (a) | By Owners ... ..  | Nil |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of Owners ...   | Nil |

**C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.**

- |     |  |     |
|-----|--|-----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... .. | 20  |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..    | Nil |

**D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.**

- |     |   |     |
|-----|---|-----|
| (1) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..   | Nil |
| (2) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been made fit ... .. | Nil |

**4.—Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding.**

Although there is still some degree of overcrowding in the Area, each year continues to show some improvement.

**Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.****Immunisations against Diphtheria.**

The importance of early immunisation of infants and the necessity for a reinforcing dose preferably shortly before entering school, is constantly brought to the notice of parents by all concerned. Unfortunately, they are not taking quite so much trouble in ensuring that their children are properly immunised. If this trend continues beyond a certain level there is little doubt that diphtheria will soon resume its former role as a killer of young children.

A further 93 children under 5 years and 22 children from 5 to 14 years of age were given primary courses of treatment and 86 were given booster doses.

No cases of diphtheria were notified.



### Notifications.

The notifiable infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) which occurred during the year 1954 are set out in the following table.

Disease	AGE IN YEARS							Total No. of Cases	No. of cases admitted to Hospital	No. of Deaths
	0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25 and over			
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	—	5	2	—	—	8	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	5	16	2	1	1	25	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	2	3	3	—	—	—	8	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	1	2	—	1	—	11	15	—	4
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Totals ...	—	5	11	24	5	1	13	59	1	4

### Tuberculosis.

Nine cases were notified during the year.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	1
35—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	1	5	—	3	—	—	—	1

It was not necessary to take any action under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations) 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

### **Conclusion.**

The sanitary services provided by the Council have proved satisfactory. The collection of refuse in the District, an ever expanding service as new houses come into occupation, has proved the most difficult to maintain owing to recurring staff shortages and the increased demands with high standards of hygiene in the home. The Council will have to consider bringing into operation a further refuse vehicle with the necessary staff if the service is to continue to reach its present standard.

The Council have made good progress in their programme designed to deal with unfit properties in the various parishes.

I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council and all Officials for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. MARKHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.



KIDDERMINSTER  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

FOR

1954

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the*

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration within the Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1954.

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.**

Number of visits made to premises re cases of infectious disease and disinfection : 19.

Disinfection of premises and articles which have been exposed to infection is carried out where necessary by means of disinfectant and formaldehyde lamps.

## **MEAT, MILK AND OTHER FOODS.**

### **Meat.**

Until August all meat sold in the five shops in the district came from the Central Slaughterhouse in the Borough of Kidderminster. In August meat was de-rationed and butchers were given the opportunity to apply for permission to re-open their slaughter-houses. The Council agreed to the use of five slaughter-houses situated in the villages of Wolverley, Blakedown, Cookley, Chaddesley Corbett and Rock.

It was indeed fortunate that each of these butchers were master craftsmen who had dealt only in the highest quality of animal. It has been a pleasure to have the duty to inspect meat of such high class. Each of the butchers have fields in which cattle can be settled prior to slaughter and this has afforded excellent opportunities for ante-mortem inspection.

The butchers are to be congratulated on the co-operation they have shown particularly in notifying the slightest abnormality they have observed.



## CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ... ..	286	1	26	970	305
Number inspected ... ..	217	1	26	611	301
<b>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	35	1	Nil	56	25
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ... ..	11.5	100%	Nil	9.1	8.6
<b>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	6
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	3.3	Nil	Nil	Nil	2

## Meat and Edible Offals Condemned.

Moribund and badly bled	...	...	...	...	80 lbs.
Distomatosis	...	...	...	...	56 lbs.
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	28 lbs.
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	69 lbs.
Injury	...	...	...	...	62 lbs.
Total	...	...	...	...	295 lbs.

The above tables give a very clear picture of the quality of meat produced.

**Milk.**

Close contact has been maintained with all milk distributors in the area and no infringement of the Regulations have been met with.

### Other Foods.

The following details show the position with regard to food premises :—

Type	No.	Registered Section 14 F. & D. Act	Inspections
General Provisions ... ..	46	—	48
Cafes ... ..	13	—	30
Hotels and other licensed premises	31	—	76
Works Canteens ... ..	1	—	3
Dairies ... ..	21	—	76
Mobile Canteens ... ..	3	—	16
Ice Cream Manufacturers ... ..	1	1	12
Ice Cream Retailers ... ..	24	24	52

Inspections have revealed that there is a high standard of cleanliness throughout the district. Tradesmen have responded readily to any suggestion put forward.

As the district attracts large holiday crowds a close watch was kept on mobile canteens and the arrangements for refreshments at various race meetings, agricultural shows, etc., and little was found of which to complain.

A continuous campaign of personal contact with traders and staffs on all matters relating to clean food was maintained.

### Ice Cream.

Having only one small manufacturer of ice cream, the vast majority of ice-cream sold in the district comes from large concerns in other areas. This ice-cream is almost invariably supplied to the customer in cartons or wrappings.

It has not been necessary to draw attention to any infringements during the year.

### SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Number of unexpired licences in force	...	...	...	21
---------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

### BAKEHOUSES.

Number on register, December, 1954	...	...	...	8
Inspections	...	...	...	32

### Contraventions Remedied :—

Limewashing	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dirty Floors	...	...	...	...	...	1

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

### Refuse Collection and Disposal.

This service is carried out by three lorries. One S.D. Freighter with a crew of three, one Morris Commercial with a crew of two and a Contractor's lorry manned by the Contractor and his son.

The S.D. Freighter covers the parishes of Wolverley, Cookley, Churchill and Blakedown and Broome and gives a fortnightly service to these built up areas. The Morris Commercial deals with the parishes of Chaddesley Corbett, Stone and Rushock and gives a fortnightly service. The parishes of Rock, Upper Arley, Kidderminster Foreign and Ribbesford are dealt with by the Contractor.

An ever present problem is the provision of adequate land for tipping.

The following are the details of the number of loads dealt with:

Tipped at Wolverley	...	...	...	...	1099	loads
Tipped at Lodgeford Hill	...	...	...	...	507	„
Tipped at Trimpley	...	...	...	...	233	„
Tipped at Rock	...	...	...	...	319	„
					<hr/> 2158	<hr/> loads

### Night Soil Collection.

A weekly collection of night soil is made from Chaddesley Corbett Village. The work is done by a local contractor, who uses a motor lorry provided with suitable bins for the carriage of the night soil. No complaints have been received with regard to the manner in which this work is done.

The Council's proposed Sewerage Scheme for the village will render this service unnecessary, but as a temporary measure the system is as efficient as possible.

Number of pail closets emptied per week : 87.

### Cesspools.

Nuisances from overflowing cesspools have again been dealt with by the use of a hired cesspool emptying vehicle. 85 cesspools have been emptied at the owner's expense.

## WATER SUPPLY.

### General.

Number of samples submitted for analysis	...	...	79
Number of samples found to be unfit or unsuitable	...	...	27
Number of samples found to be fit	...	...	52

### Council's Borehole, Cookley.

Number of samples submitted for chemical examination ... ..	6
Number of samples submitted for bacteriological examination ... ..	10
Number of samples found to be chemically of good quality and fit for drinking ... ..	6
Number of samples found to be bacteriologically of good quality and fit for drinking ... ..	10

The water from the Borehole shows little variation in physical character and chemical composition.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA, 1954.

Particulars of Visits and Inspections are as follows :—

Bakehouses ... ..	32
Caravans and Movable Dwellings ... ..	86
Dairies ... ..	56
Fried Fish Premises ... ..	12
Infectious Disease ... ..	19
Overcrowding ... ..	294
Premises where animals are kept ... ..	101
Schools ... ..	12
Water Courses ... ..	72
Water Supply... ..	301
Workshops ... ..	1
Provision of Dustbins ... ..	36
Miscellaneous ... ..	796
Refuse Collection ... ..	1986

### SANITARY WORK.

#### Interior of Houses.

Dirty houses improved and cleansed by tenants ... ..	4
Verminous houses dealt with ... ..	2

#### Yards and Outbuildings.

Dirty yards and W.C's cleansed by tenants ... ..	16
Offensive accumulations removed from yards, etc. ... ..	101



**Drainage.**

Yard gullies cleansed by tenants	...	...	...	...	82
Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction				...	192
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	46
New drains provided	...	...	...	...	579
Glazed stoneware gullies provided			...	...	268
Inspection chambers provided to drains	...		...	...	584
Overflowing cesspools cleansed and repaired			...	...	85
Inspection chambers repaired and provided with new air-tight covers	...	...	...	...	7
Glazed sinks provided	...	...	...	...	62
Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	...	202

**Water Closets.**

New Water Closets erected	...	...	...	...	101
Additional W.C's provided	...	...	...	...	6
Foul and obstructed W.C's cleansed			...	...	158
New W.C. cisterns provided, others repaired			...	...	560
Water Closets repaired	...	...	...	...	62
Water Closets provided with new basins			...	...	560
Defective water supply to W.C's remedied (burst water pipes, defective ball valves, etc.)			...	...	92
Conversions :—					
Conversions of privies to W.C's			...	...	6
Conversions of pail closets to W.C's			...	...	102

**Privies and Pail Closets.**

New pans provided to pail closets	...	...	...	35
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**Ashpits and Dustbins.**

Houses provided with new sanitary dustbins	...	...	40
Insanitary conditions of dustbins cleansed by tenants	...		12
Ashpits abolished	...	...	6

**Various.**

Nuisances from improper keeping of animals	...	...	14
Accumulations of manure and refuse removed	...	...	67



## RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

### Infestation Order, 1943.

Appended herewith is a summary of the work carried out during the year.

No. of infestations dealt with at private houses	...	145
No. of infestations dealt with on business premises	...	4
No. of other infestations dealt with	... ..	11
No. of complaints received	... ..	36

### Sewers.

Acting on the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the sewers at Blakedown and Wolverley were test baited during the year with satisfactory results.

### Worcestershire Agricultural Executive Committee.

The co-operation between this Committee and ourselves has been excellent, and our thanks are due to all concerned.

### Worcestershire Planning and Advisory Committee.

I am pleased to be able to report that this Committee has done very useful work during the year.

## HOUSING.

The housing record of the Council has always been excellent and during the year a further 76 houses were erected, making a total of 540 since the war.

Your Sanitary Inspector has for many years been allotted the duties of Housing Officer, and it has been more evident than ever that this arrangement has many advantages.

A start has been made on the condemnation of unfit houses, 20 Demolition Orders having been made, mainly in the village of Cookley, where the housing standard is low. The re-housing of the tenants has begun. It is hoped that this work will be facilitated in 1955 by the erection of further houses for the purpose.

Work still progresses in the re-conditioning of cottages, and the Grant Scheme has been of great assistance, 15 applications receiving favourable consideration.

**PETROLEUM ACTS.**

Your Sanitary Inspector also undertakes the duties of Petroleum Inspector, and the following figures are of interest :—

Number of Premises licensed for Storage :—

Private	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Business Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
For Re-sale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Total								64

Total fees received ... .. £38 15s. 0d.

It was not necessary to draw the attention of any Licencee to any serious infringements of the Acts.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, may I express my thanks for the interest and support given by the whole of the Council during the year.

I would also express my appreciation of the willing co-operation which I have received from the Clerk, Mr. J. H. Swann, the Surveyor, Mr. A. S. Northover, the Rating Officer, Miss I. M. Mountford, and the whole of the Council's staff.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. S. PORTER,

Sanitary Inspector.





